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Other *errata*, which together with the above are being corrected in the plates, are: p. 9, footnote to l. 6 *merveilles* for *vermeilles*; p. 42, l. 29 *I'Abencerage* for *l'Abencerage*; p. 49, l. 21, ; for ?; p. 67 *crut*, see *croire* should come after *crucauté*; p. 68 *déjà* should come after *dehors*; p. 76 U.S.A. should be omitted after Georgia; and *mantilla* on p. 80 should be written *mantille* for the French.

Certain omissions from the vocabulary should be noted: p. 61 *atteinte* see *atteindre*; p. 65 *ciseau*, m., chisel; *pl. —x*, scissors, instead of *ciseaux*, m. pl. scissors; *comment*, how, what; p. 67 *couvert* see *couvrir*; p. 71 *empreintes* see *empreindre*; p. 88 *reconnue* see *reconnaître*; *rentrer dans*, to re-enter (into); p. 89 *reparut* see *reparaître*; under *surprendre* (p. 93) put p. p. m. *surpris*; p. 94 *traiter*, to treat.

In the second edition, which is well under way, will be given such idiomatic constructions as *convenir à*, to suit, *convenir de*, to agree, *couvrir de*, to cover with, *demander à*, to ask of, *s'empêcher de*, to help, *étonné de*, astonished at, *penser à*, to think of, *profiter de*, to profit by, *servir de*, to serve as, etc.

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### (1). THE BEWCASTLE CROSS.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—Students of English antiquity will be glad to know that there is an interesting picture of the Bewcastle Cross in Alice Morse Earle's *Sundials and Roses of Yesterday* (Macmillan, 1902), facing p. 32. The account of it, on pp. 72–3, must be taken with allowance, but two statements, at least, are worth reproducing: 'I think it the loveliest scene that I ever beheld. . . . On the south-face is the sun-dial surrounded by carved bands and leaves, in such a manner that the dial is proved part of the original design, not a later addition.'

### (2). *Beowulf* 704.

The following passage from Mrs. Tweedie's *Through Finland in Carts* (Macmillan, 1898), seems to me worth considering with reference to *hornreced*, *Beow.* 704, *horngeap*, *Beow.* 82, etc.:

'There is seldom a house which is not decorated somewhere or other with elk horns. The elk, like deer, shed their horns every year, and as Finland is crowded with these Arctic beasts, the horns are picked up in large quantities. They are handsome, but heavy, for the ordinary elk horn is far more ponderous in shape and weight and equal in width to a Scotch Royal. The ingenuity of the Finlander is great in . . . interlacing them in such a manner as to form a frieze round the top of the entrance hall in their homes' (p. 241).

### (3). EUPHUISTIC NATURAL HISTORY IN PLUTARCH.

Plutarch's contributions to 'unnatural Natural History' do not seem to be dwelt upon in the works treating of Euphuism and kindred subjects. From one essay in the *Morals*, that on 'How a Young Man Should Study Poetry,' I cull the following (the references are to Padelford's translation, *Yale Studies in English* xv).

"In the head of the polypus dwell both good and ill;" the plant is very good to eat, but, they say, disturbs one's sleep with confused and unnatural dreams. Likewise in poetry,' etc. (p. 50).

'For as when the mandrake grows beside the vineyard it imparts its influence to the wine, and makes the sleep of those who drink it more refreshing, so when poetry,' etc. (p. 51).

One sees how they are related to credible and even authenticated Natural History, by a comparison with a few other quotations:

'As on a vine the leaves and branches frequently cover up and conceal the ripe fruit, so the diction of poetry and its profusion of fictitious narrative conceal many useful and helpful things from the attention of a young man' (p. 80).

'As in pastures the bee seeks the flower, the goat seeks the bud, the hog the root, and other creatures the fruit and seed, so in reading poetry one man culls the flowers of history, another dwells upon the beauty and the arrangement of words' (p. 83).

'As the bee instinctively gathers the smoothest and sweetest honey from the most bitter blossoms and the sharpest thistles, so, if rightly trained in the poets, boys will,' etc. (p. 87).

Akin to the foregoing is this, which indeed, like the first one above cited, is perhaps intermediate in character: 'If you find it worth at least as much as the so-called amethyst-plant, which some men wear in their drinking-bouts as a charm

against drunkenness, then hand it to Cleandrus, and thus charm him betimes' (p. 50).

No doubt a search through the *Morals* would disclose many more instances of both sorts. It is to be hoped the classics will be thoroughly explored for this purpose, and the collections rendered accessible.

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To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—In Bartlett's invaluable work, *Familiar Quotations*, (9th ed.) page 208, the expression, "The Great Secretary of Nature,—Sir Francis Bacon," is quoted from Izaak Walton. A footnote quotes a similar phrase from James Howell. The credit really belongs, however, to an earlier writer than either. In Donne's first Satire, written not later than 1593, we find the phrase, "Nature's secretary, the philosopher." As Walton was an ardent admirer of Donne, it seems probable that the angler's application of this phrase to Bacon was a reminiscence.

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#### CORRECTIONS.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—I wish to rectify some statements made in my review of Dr. Lessing's thesis (*M. L. N.*, March, 1903): p. 92, line 30; unfortunately I have misquoted the author; the line should read 'Stimmungen' instead of 'Vorstellungen.' This correction does not affect my argument which is chiefly concerned with the word *unklaren*.

My remark about the influence of *die Räuber* upon *Spartacus* can no longer stand as a criticism of the thesis, since the author tells me that he did not know the German edition of Ehrhardt, when publishing his paper.

P. 92, second line from bottom: change 'one' to 'me,' in order to make it more plain that I consider Schiller's influence upon *die Ahnfrau* stronger than is admitted even by Wylpel.

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#### BRIEF MENTION.

*A Thesaurus Dictionary of the English Language.*

Designed to suggest immediately any desired word needed to express exactly a given idea. A Dictionary, Synonyms, Antonyms, Idioms, Foreign Phrases, Pronunciations, A Copious Correlation of Words. Prepared under the supervision of FRANCIS A. MARCH, LL. D., L. H. D., D. C. L., Litt. D., and FRANCIS A. MARCH, JR., A. M., Ph. D. Historical Publishing Co., Philadelphia, 1903. 4to., pp. xvi, 1192.

For half a century the English-writing world has steadfastly relied upon the help of Roget's *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases*, with its one thousand categories, beginning with "existence" (apparently an appropriate beginning), and ending with "temple" (equally appropriate, perhaps, if it be allowed to connote "funeral"). As every one knows, Roget's book is at once so good and so bad as to be notable for just this clash of qualities; but it has become antiquated, the language having grown away from it, and therefore it is doomed to less praise for its merits and less patience with its faults.

Professor March's remarkable book is worthy in all respects to succeed to Roget's in public favor, and to hold that favor in undisputed right for a good half-century to come.

The *Thesaurus Dictionary* makes complete amends for the shortcomings of the older book in being at once both a complete dictionary, with all the words in alphabetic order and briefly defined, and a book of synonyms and antonyms by means of a system—a very ingenious and a very admirable system—of grouping the words under significant heads. Thus, the editor illustrates, the word *anger* in its alphabetic place, duly defined, supplies a reference to the groups, EXCITABILITY—INEXCITABILITY, and FAVORITE—ANGER. Turning to the first group, in its alphabetical place, one finds "two parallel columns, the left hand for EXCITABILITY, the right for INEXCITABILITY, each running on for a couple of pages and bringing together some one hundred and fifty words and phrases. These are divided into nouns, verbs, verbal phrases, adjectives, etc., arranged in alphabetic order. The first column contains all words and phrases naturally